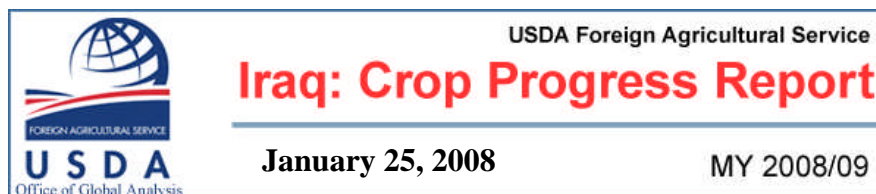


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**Week 3 - Summary**

1 Production for MY 2008/09 winter wheat and barley crop is forecasted to be lower than last year's harvest. This conclusion is supported by ground information gathered from PRT advisors, the extent and severity of drought in comparison to historical agro-meteorological data, and the current state of cropland condition and abundance provided by remotely sensed imagery. The most significant reduction is believed to occur in the northern rainfed regions where most fields were reportedly not planted, with additional decreases in irrigated areas due to low water levels and a progressively degraded infrastructure. Furthermore, in comparison to MY 2007/08 crop, the current crop did not receive sufficient amounts of precipitation during the most crucial planting and establishment stages (Figure 1). Further information will be provided in the February pre-lockup report.

2 Drought conditions continue throughout the rainfed winter wheat and barley regions of northern Iraq. The NOAA 7-day forecast shows the possibility of minimal precipitation in the northern provinces, but seasonal cumulative precipitation will remain well below normal.

3 Vegetation maps were produced using high resolution Quickbird imagery collected over AOI's 16 and 5, and were used to compare the degree of green-up between the months of November and January. The sample areas span major cropland in the provinces of Salah ad Din and Ninawa. AOI 16, Salah ad Din, which is mainly irrigated, reveals significant increases in cropland cover, approximately 1700 ha, or 11% of the study area. These increases are mainly attributed to relatively sufficient irrigation, whereas any decreases are mainly due to harvested fields and decline in natural vegetation cover (Figure 3). In contrast, AOI 5, Ninawa, which is mainly rainfed, showed no changes in cropland vegetation cover. In fact, the region shows little evidence of planting (Figure 4).

4 The current AWiFSP6 NDVI composite as of January 21, 2008 continues to show the majority of healthy, green cropland in irrigated provinces (Figure 5). A change analysis performed between imagery collected during the months of November and January showed slight to significant increases in cropland cover mainly in irrigated areas in central and southern Iraq (Figures 6 & 7). Areas of slight to significant decreases could be attributed to late harvest of summer crops and/or areas of poor irrigation. Cropland area increased approximately 670 000 hectare from November 2007 to January 2008. It is noted that this area statistic includes all cropland and will change as the crop season progresses.

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**Comparison of Surface Wetness between the 2006/07 and the 2007/08 Crop Season**

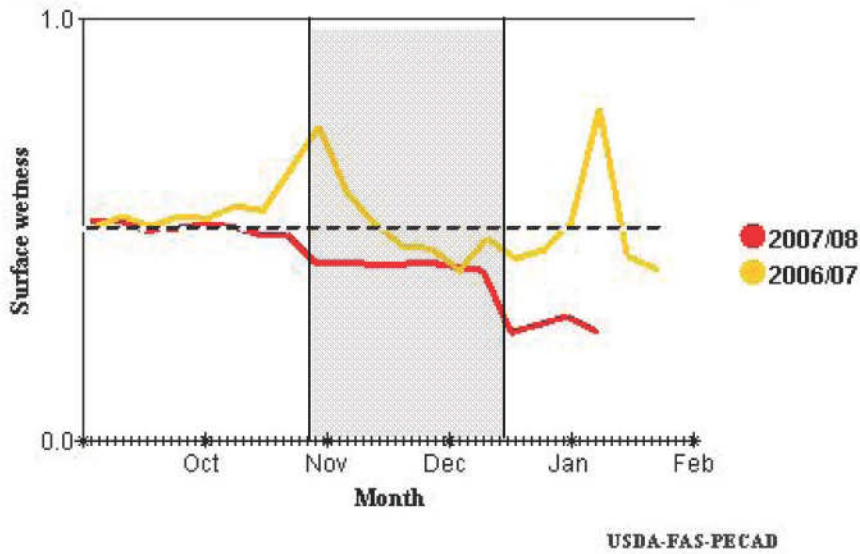


Figure1: Comparison of cumulative precipitation between the current and last year's growing season Note: Last year received precipitation during crucial planting stage.

**Comparison of Cumulative Precipitation between the 2006/07 and the 2007/08 Crop Season**

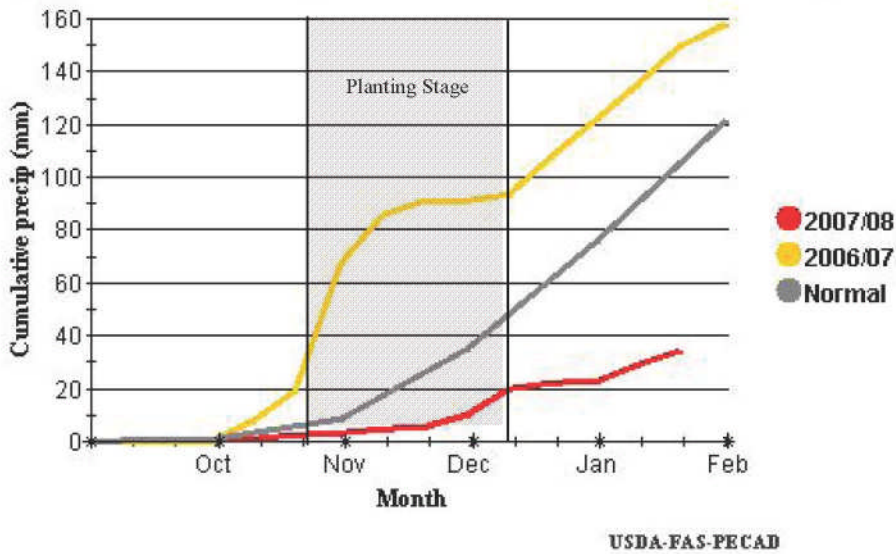


Figure2: Comparison of surface wetness between the current and last year's growing season

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Changes in Vegetation Abundance from Nov 16th, 2007 to Jan 20th, 2008 (AOI 16, Salah ad Din)

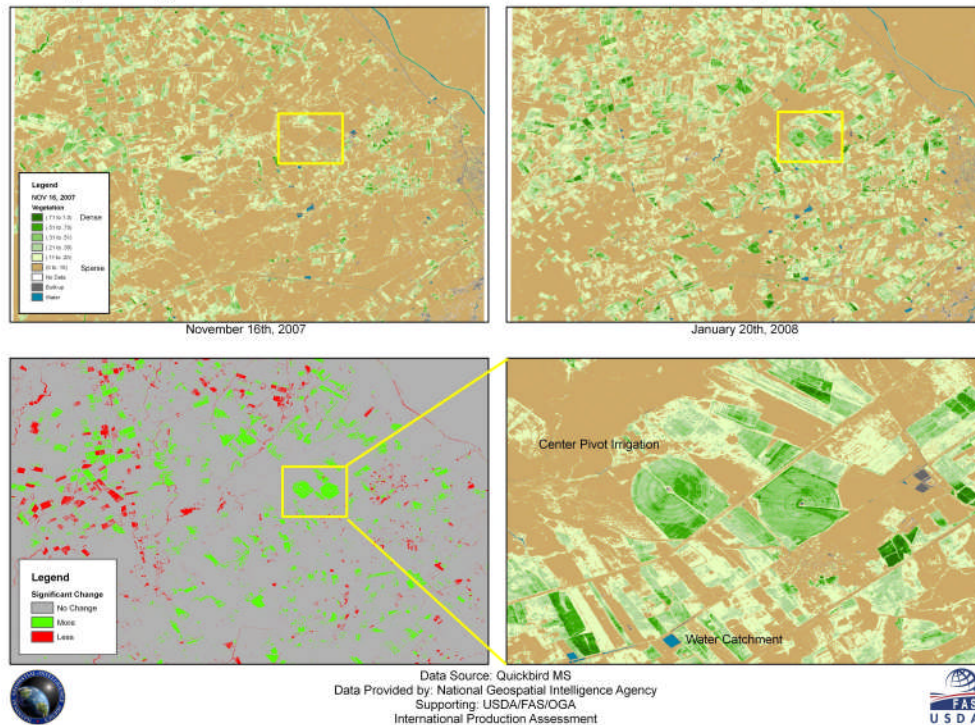


Figure 3: Comparison of imagery collected between November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008 over AOI #16, Salah ad Din province. Change analysis reveals increased cropland cover due to sufficient irrigation.

Changes in Vegetation Abundance from Nov 29th, 2007 to Jan 22nd, 2008 (AOI 05, Niniwa)

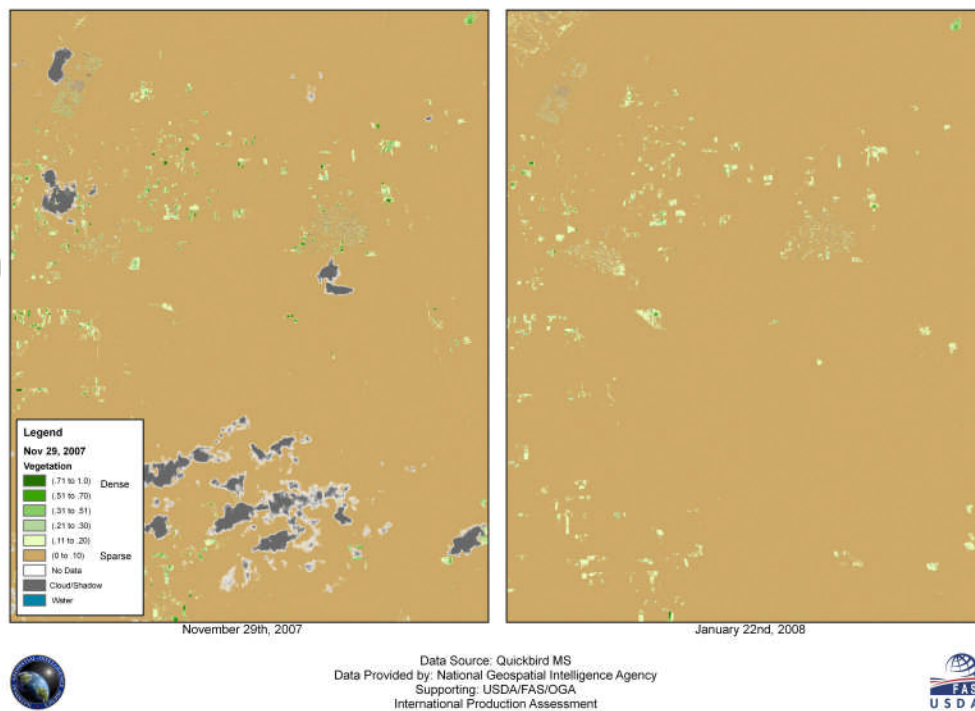


Figure 3: Comparison of imagery collected between November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 over AOI #5, Niniwa province. Change analysis reveals no cropland cover due to insufficient precipitation during crop planting stage.



## AWiFS IRS-P6 NDVI Composite as of January 21st, 2008

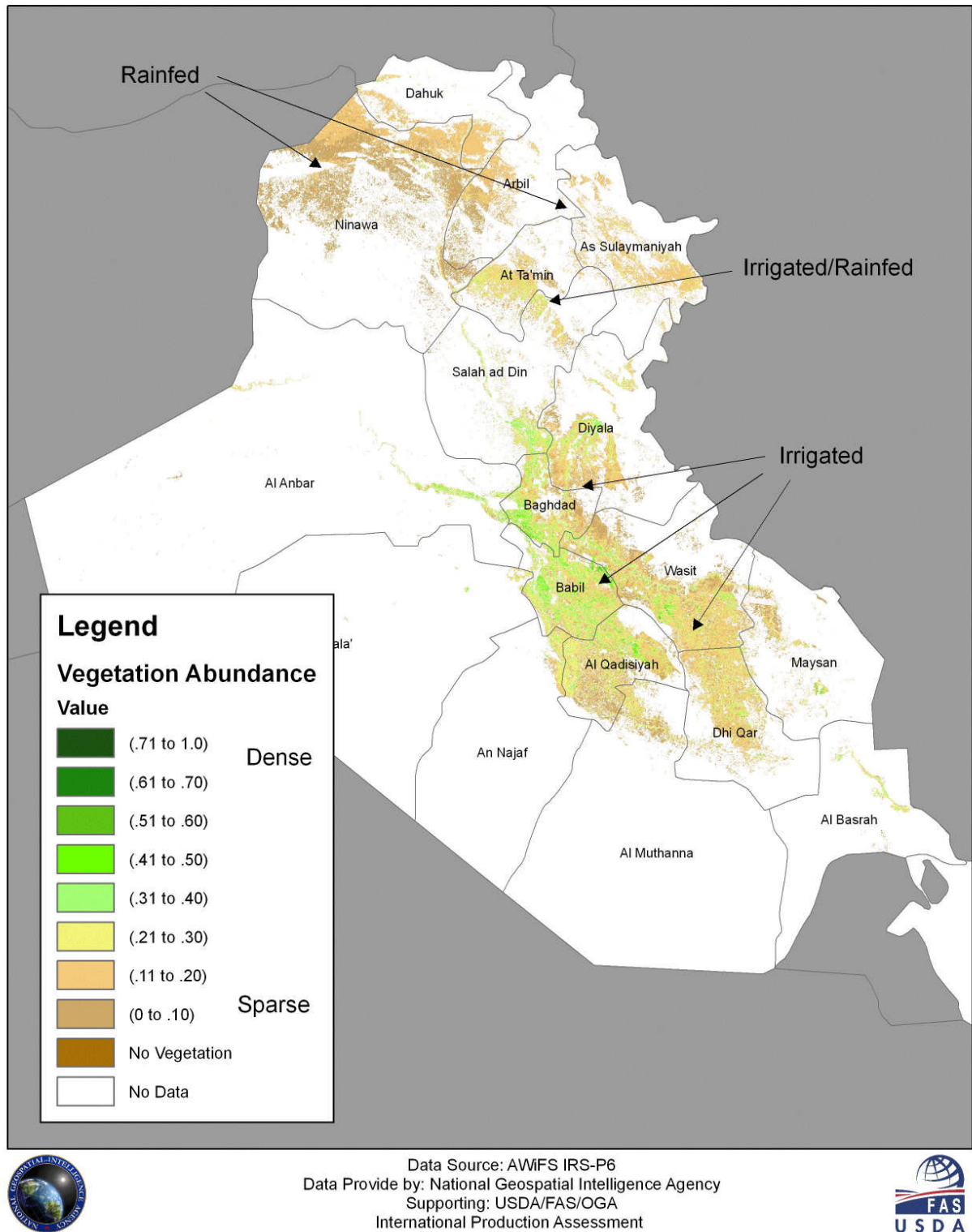


Figure 5: NDVI composite revealing highest crop abundance in irrigated regions. Rainfed areas reflect sparse vegetation only.

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Change in Cropland Cover between November 2007 and January 2008

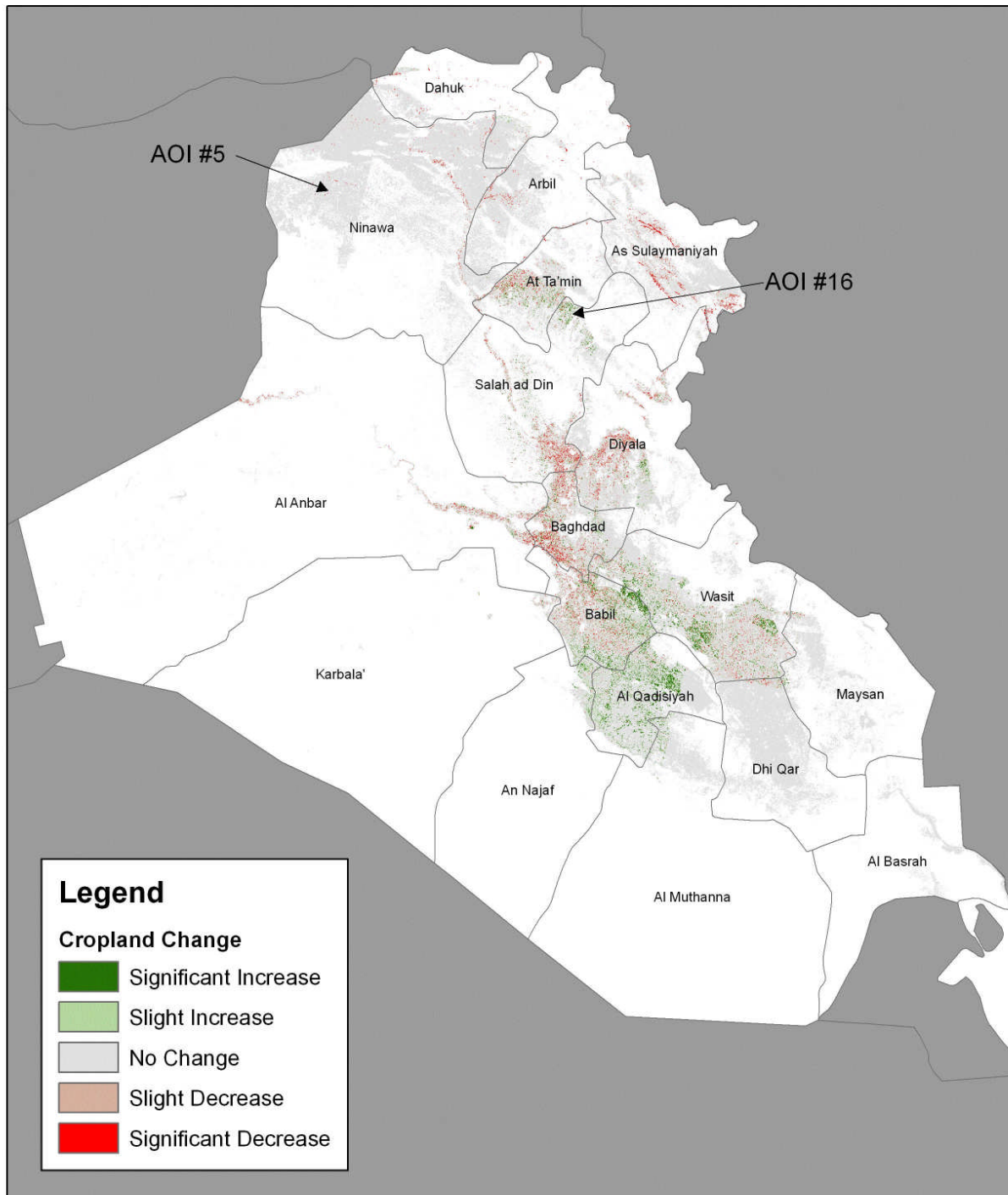


Figure 6: Change analysis between November 2007 and January 2008 cropland cover shows majority of increase in irrigated regions.

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Significant Increases in Irrigated Cropland Cover (AWiFS IRS-P6)

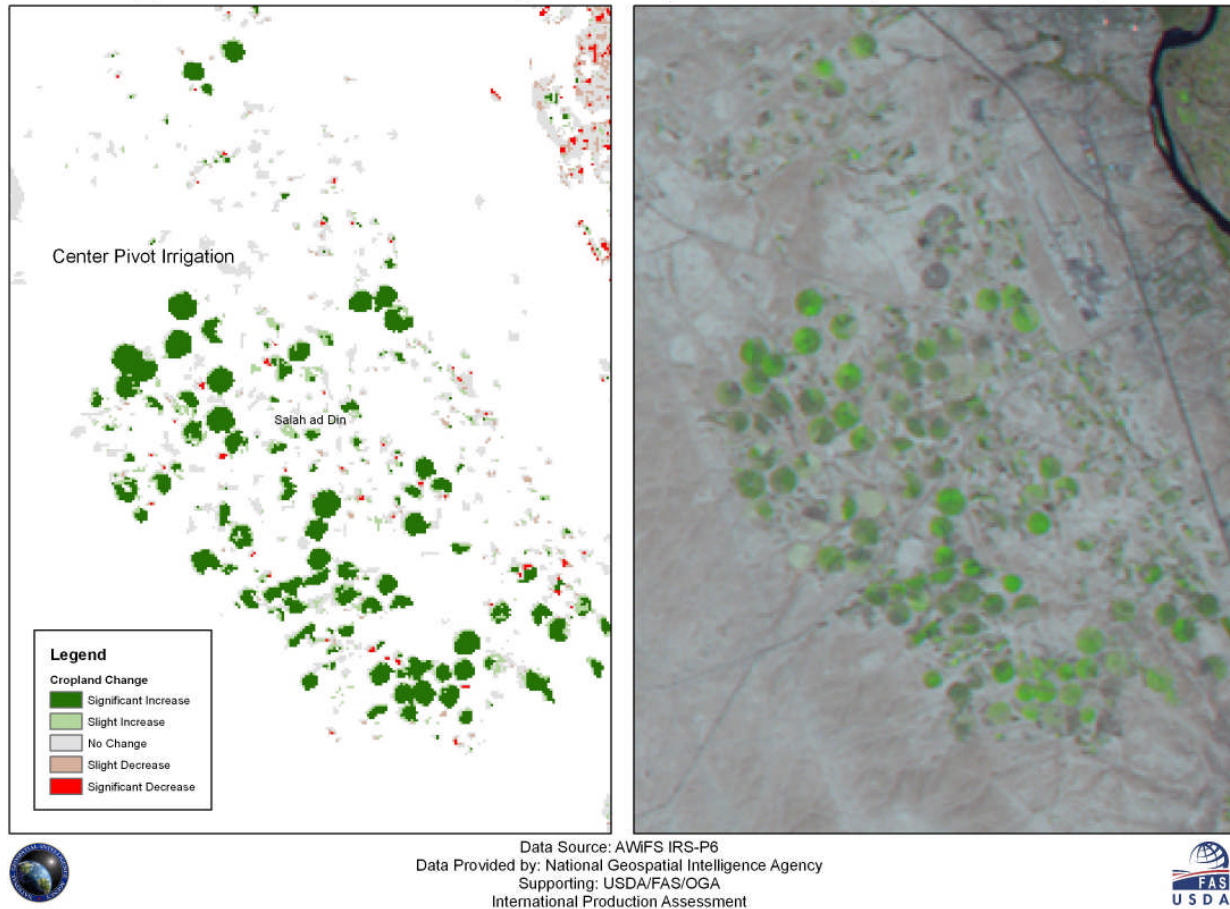


Figure 7: Image depicting significant increases in cropland cover due to sufficient irrigation.